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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,980	10/12/2005	Rick A. Anderson	026032-4964	2125

26371 7590 03/28/2007  
 FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
 777 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE  
 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-5306

EXAMINER
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PEDDER, DENNIS H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3612

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/28/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/552,980	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ANDERSON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Dennis H. Pedder	<b>Art Unit</b> 3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/5/07
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-7 and 16-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 8-15 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <del>4/15/07</del> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Claims 5-7, 16-19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 3/5/2007.

Applicant admitted that claims 5-7, 17-19 are withdrawn as not directed to the elected species of figures 1-7. Claim 16 is withdrawn by the examiner as no overcenter device is disclosed for the elected species.

### *Specification*

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: pin member, claim 15.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 8-10, 13-15, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Renault, EP 1197382.

Renault has latch device with handle 6 rotatable about the axis shown, axle 15 with a second axis perpendicular, and projection 17 with rail 19.

As to claim 4, see spring 44.

Art Unit: 3612

As to claim 9, see the figures 5 and 6 and the effect of further handle 4 and abutment 39.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-2, 8-12, 15, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schlecht.

Schlecht has module 6, handle 7 rotatable about a first axis and axle pivotally coupled to rod 9 at its upper end for rotation about this perpendicular second axis, and projection at lower end of 10 to engage the rail 4.

As to claim 2, see recess surrounding member 5.

As to claim 9, the axle is rotatable while the handle is unlocked and rotating to the locked position.

As to claim 11, ledge 5 is a flange.

As to claim 15, the pin is seen within cam 8.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

Art Unit: 3612

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 2, 12, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renault in view of Clark.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide in Renault a foot engaging a recess in a rail as taught by Clark et al. for secure engagement.

9. Claims 3, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renault.

The amount of movement of the handle 6 is deemed to be an obvious expedient to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow for ergonomic operation.

As to claim 11, engagement of a flange on a rail is common knowledge in the art, obvious to use here for increased engagement.

10. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schlecht.

The amount of movement of the handle 6 is deemed to be an obvious expedient to one of ordinary skill in the art to allow for ergonomic operation.

11. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gort et al. in view of either Renault or Schlecht.

Gort et al. have the overhead console with rail engagement using a linearly movable pin system for securement to apertures within the rail. It would have been obvious to one of

Art Unit: 3612

ordinary skill to provide in Gort et al. either mechanism for engaging a rail as taught by either Renault or Schlecht as a known alternative in the art.

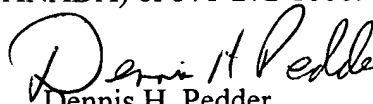
*Conclusion*

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. De Angelis et al. and Tiesler et al. are cited to detail further console latch mechanisms.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis H. Pedder whose telephone number is (571) 272-6667. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn D. Dayoan can be reached on (571) 272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Dennis H. Pedder  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612

3/26/87

Application/Control Number: 10/552,980

Page 6

Art Unit: 3612

DHP

3/26/2007